THE HUMAN FLY™
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
35¢
7
MAR
02750
THE WILDEST SUPER-HERO EVER--BECAUSE HE'S REAL!
THE HUMAN FLY™
©1977 MARVEL COMICS GROUP
A ROCKET SLED STUNT BECOMES A BATTLE FOR SURVIVAL!
FURY IN THE WILD!

One night in 1971, on a lonely North Carolina highway, a head-on *car crash* cost a young driver his family—and, very nearly, his *life!* Hardly a bone in his body remained *unbroken.* His doctors were *sure* that he would never *move* again. . . But he *triumphed* over his disability and went on to become the *wildest hero* of all—because he's *REAL!*

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE HUMAN FLY!™

BILL MANTLO WRITER ★ LEE ELIAS ARTIST ★ MIKE ESPOSITO INKER ★ PATTERSON/LETTERER MARY TITUS/COLORIST ★ A. GOODWIN EDITOR

MY NAME'S MAL EVANS--THAT'S ME, IN THE PICTURE, LYING FACE DOWN IN THE VERMONT SNOW!
THE KID OVER ME IS MY SON, ANDY. SAME AUTO ACCIDENT THAT KILLED HIS MOM TOOK HIS SIGHT. HE'S A GOOD KID, THOUGH.
DAD--PLEASE ANSWER ME! DAD!
IT AIN'T BEEN EASY BRINGIN' HIM UP ALONE! I MEAN, I'M JUST A GREASE-MONKEY--FIXIN' AN' RENTIN' SNOW-MOBILES TO THE RICH IN THE SKIING SEASON...WORKIN' IN A MILL PRODUCIN' AUTHENTIC "COLONIAL" FURNITURE FOR THE SUMMER TRADE!
BUT, HEY--THAT'S MY PROBLEM! YOU'RE HERE FOR THE LIFE AND DEATH ADVENTURE OF A STORY I CALL...
SNOW BLIND!
OH, YEAH--AND FOR THE HUMAN FLY!

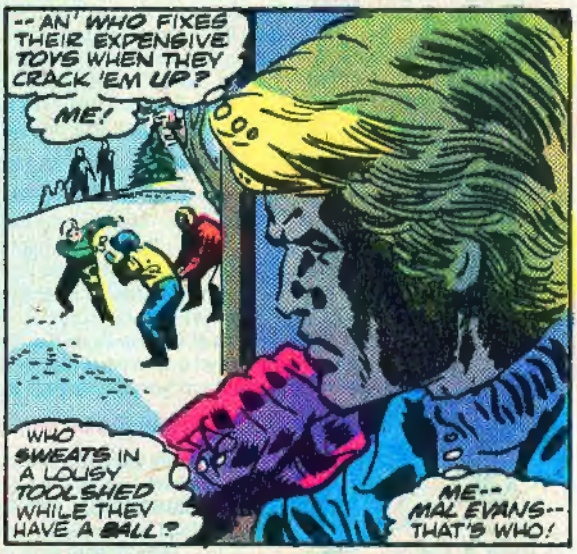
THE HUMAN FLY™ is published by MARVEL COMICS GROUP, James E. Galton, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Office of Publication: 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10022. Published monthly. Copyright ©1977 HUMAN FLY SPECTACULARS, LTD. All rights reserved. Copyright 1977 MARVEL COMICS GROUP, A Division of Cadence Industries Corporation. All rights reserved. Vol. 1, No. 7, March, 1978 issue. Price 35¢ per copy in the U.S. and Canada. Subscription rate: $4.50 for 12 issues. Canada, $5.50. Foreign, $6.50. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the U.S.A. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers, and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. Application for second class postage pending at New York and additional mailing offices.

A MrBC Scan

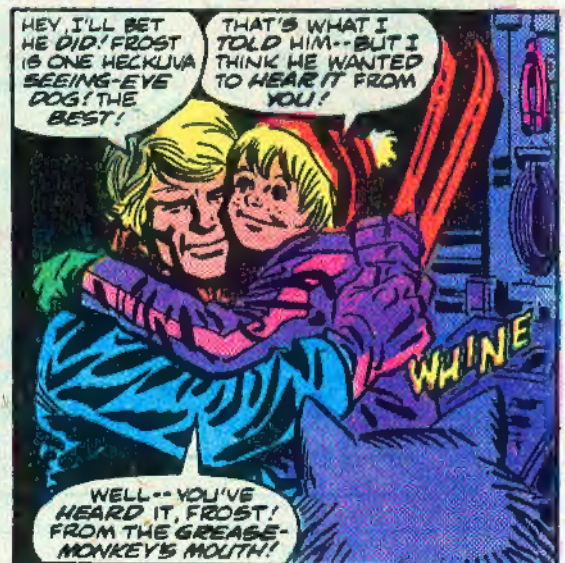
I NEVER WAS MUCH GOOD AT TELLIN' STORIES, BUT I GUESS I HEARD ENOUGH TO KNOW THEY GOT TO HAVE A BEGINNING...
SO THIS ONE STARTS WITH THE GREEN MOUNTAIN WINTER FESTIVAL!
SKIERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE HERE TODAY!
SO ARE THE MEDIA-- FOR THE SPECIAL EVENT!
YOU MEAN THAT HUMAN FLY GUY? HUNH!
WHAT'S WITH YOU? DON'T YA THINK HE'S REAL?
WELL, I'M TELLIN' YA-- I SAW HIM ON 60 MINUTES!
EASY, SIDNEY-- REMEMBER YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE!
HO-HO-HO MERRY & NICE CHRISTMAS!
HA-HA-HA! A LITTLE TOO MUCH CHEER HUH, POPS?
YEAH-- THE WINTER FESTIVAL! IT BROUGHT ALL KINDS FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE--
--AND FOR ALL DIFFERENT REASONS!
ALL SET, PEOPLE? TED? BLAZE?
I'VE DONE ALL I CAN, FLY! SHE CHECKS OUT, BUT--
BUT YOU STAND A GOOD CHANCE OF KILLING YOURSELF FEARLESS LEADER!
SNOW-MOBILES WEREN'T DESIGNED TO FLY, FLY!
THE HUMAN FLY
THIS ONE WAS, ARNIE! IT'S GOT ENOUGH ROCKET POWER TO GET IT TO THE MOON!

HMPHH!! WELL, IT'S YOUR NECK, MON CAPITAN--BUT I STILL DON'T GET WHY?
OF COURSE YOU DO, ARNIE! THE MONEY FROM THIS WINTER FESTIVAL WILL GO TO BUILD AN ORPHANAGE!
NOW HUSH--AND ACT LIKE A GOOD PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN IS SUPPOSED TO!
HEY--IT IS THE FLY! JUST LIKE I SAW ON TV! HE'S REALLY HERE!
YOU'VE JUST DISPELLED SOME YOUTHFUL DOUBTS, FLY!

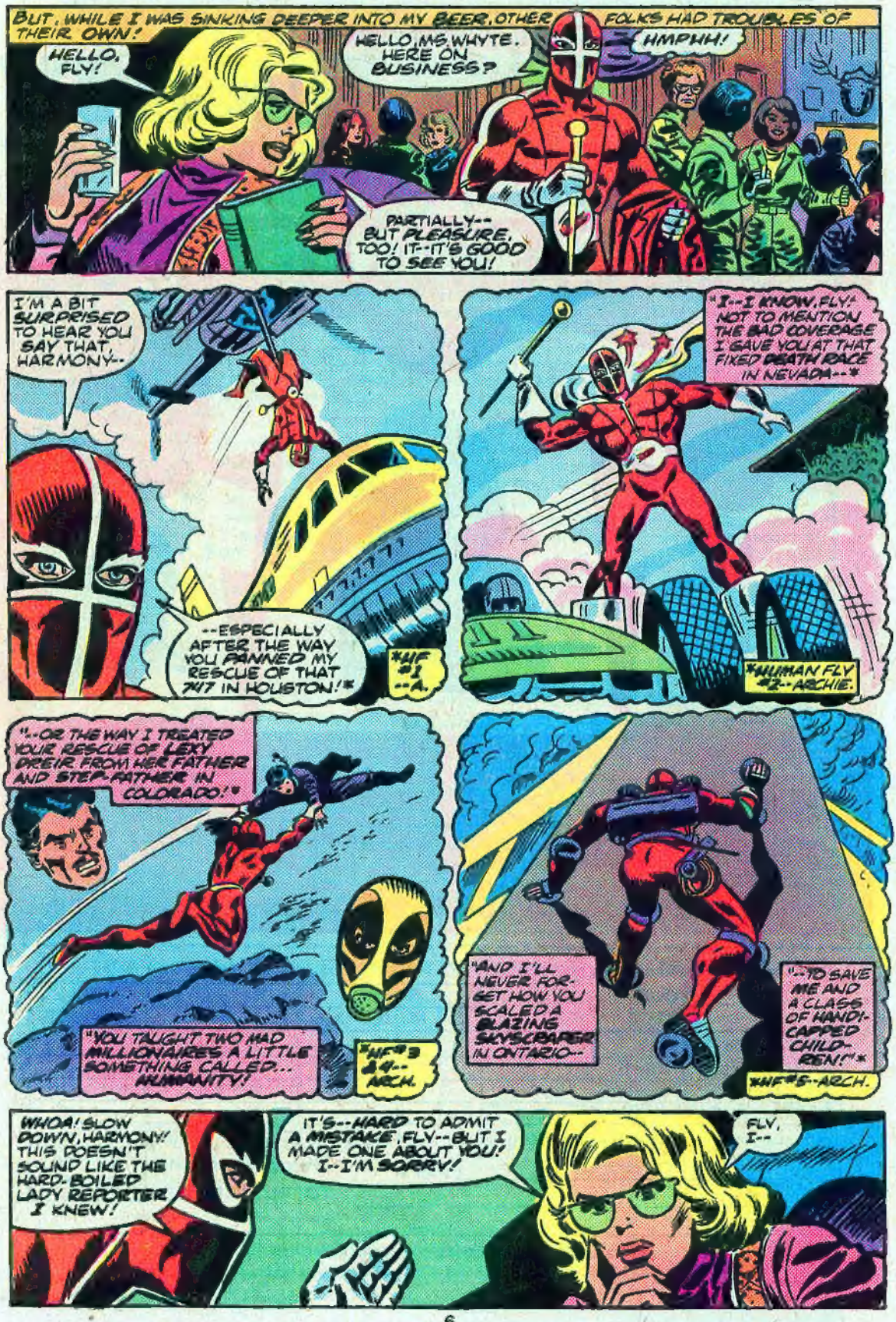
IT'S ABOUT THIS POINT THAT I FIT INTO THE CONTINUITY--ME IN MY TOOL-SHED--WORKIN' WHILE EVERYONE ELSE PLAYED!
THE FILTHY RICH! THEY COME UP HERE AN' RIDE ROUGH-SHOD OVER THE COUNTRYSIDE--

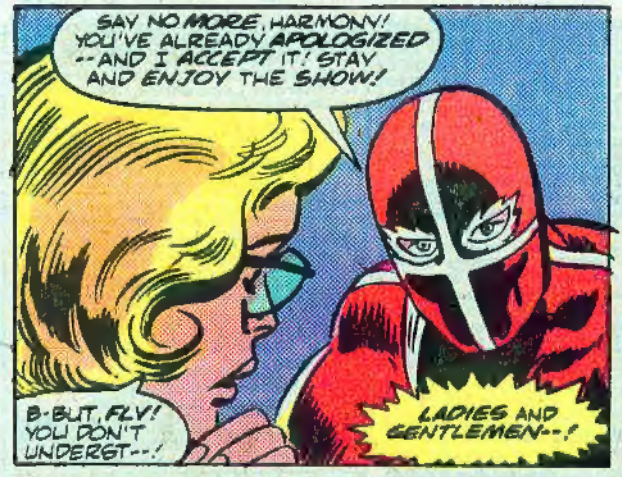

--AN' WHO FIXES THEIR EXPENSIVE TOYS WHEN THEY CRACK 'EM UP?
ME!
WHO SWEATS IN A LOUSY TOOLSHED WHILE THEY HAVE A BALL?
ME--MAL EVANS--THAT'S WHO!

BUT JUST THEN...
DAD--ARE YOU IN HERE?
ANDY! YES, SON. I'M HERE--WHERE I ALWAYS AM! GREASE-MONKEY FOR THE GUESTS!
FROST KNEW YOU'D BE HERE! HE LED ME!


HEY, I'LL BET HE DID! FROST IS ONE HECKUVA SEEING-EYE DOG! THE BEST!
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD HIM--BUT I THINK HE WANTED TO HEAR IT FROM YOU!
WHINE
WELL--YOU'VE HEARD IT, FROST! FROM THE GREASE-MONKEY'S MOUTH!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


BUT, WHILE I WAS SINKING DEEPER INTO MY BEER, OTHER FOLKS HAD TROUBLES OF THEIR OWN!
HELLO, FLY!
HELLO, MS. WHYTE. HERE ON BUSINESS?
HMPHH!
PARTIALLY-- BUT PLEASURE, TOO! IT--IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!
I'M A BIT SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, HARMONY--
--ESPECIALLY AFTER THE WAY YOU PANNED MY RESCUE OF THAT 747 IN HOUSTON!*
*HF #1 --A.
"I--I KNOW, FLY! NOT TO MENTION THE BAD COVERAGE I GAVE YOU AT THAT FIXED DEATH RACE IN NEVADA--*
*HUMAN FLY #2--ARCHIE.
"--OR THE WAY I TREATED YOUR RESCUE OF LEXY DREIR FROM HER FATHER AND STEP-FATHER IN COLORADO!*
"YOU TAUGHT TWO HAD MILLIONAIRES A LITTLE SOMETHING CALLED... HUMANITY!
*HF #3 & 4-- ARCH.
"AND I'LL NEVER FORGET HOW YOU SCALED A BLAZING SKYSCRAPER IN ONTARIO--
"--TO SAVE ME AND A CLASS OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN!"*
*HF #5--ARCH.
WHOA! SLOW DOWN, HARMONY! THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE HARD-BOILED LADY REPORTER I KNEW!
IT'S--HARD TO ADMIT A MISTAKE, FLY--BUT I MADE ONE ABOUT YOU! I--I'M SORRY!
FLY, I--

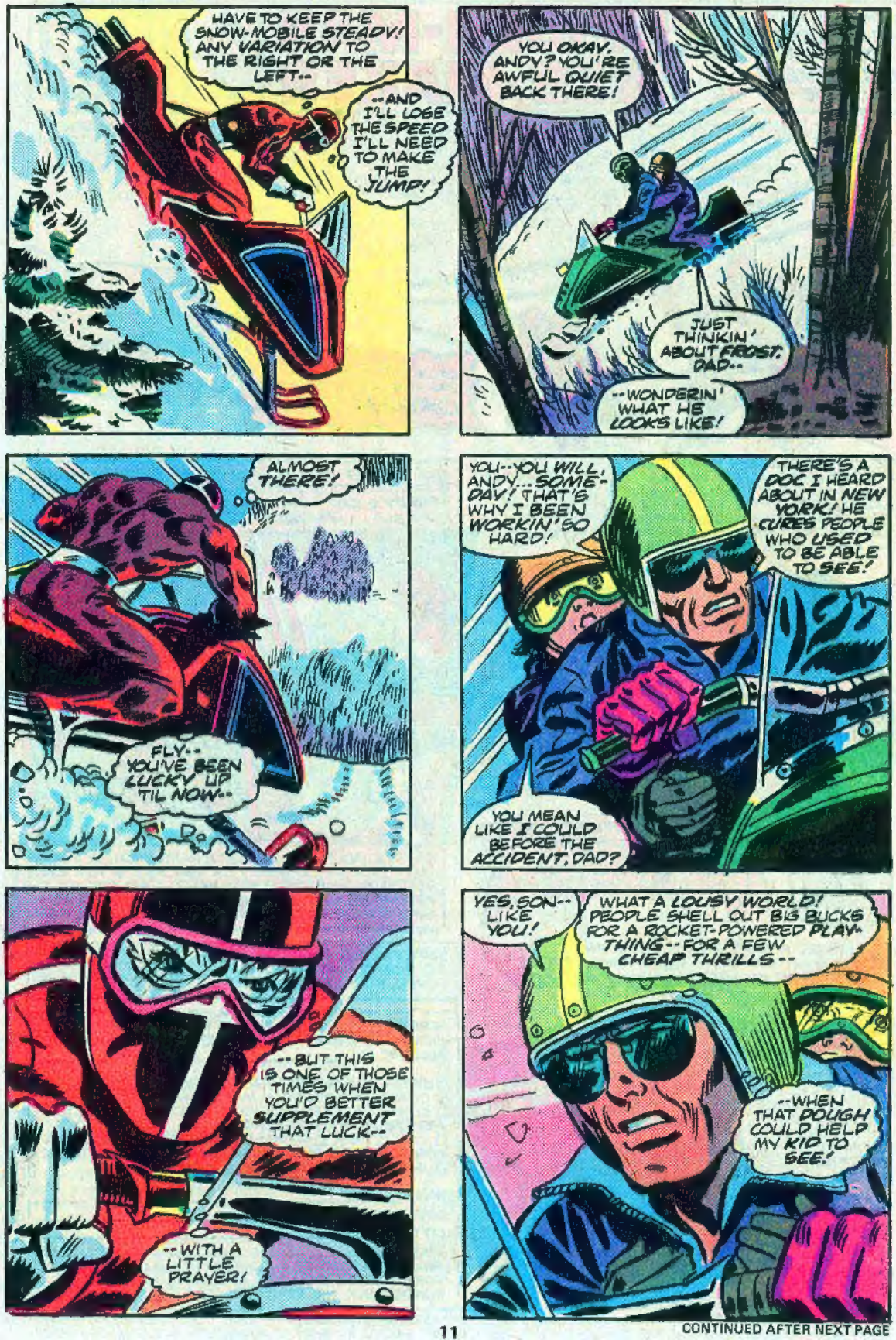

SAY NO MORE, HARMONY! YOU'VE ALREADY APOLOGIZED --AND I ACCEPT IT! STAY AND ENJOY THE SHOW!
B-BUT, FLY! YOU DON'T UNDERST--!
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN--!

THE MAIN EVENT OF OUR GALA WINTER FESTIVAL WILL BEGIN IN FIFTEEN MINUTES!
THAT'S MY CUE, HARMONY! I'VE GOT TO GET READY!
WE'LL TALK LATER!

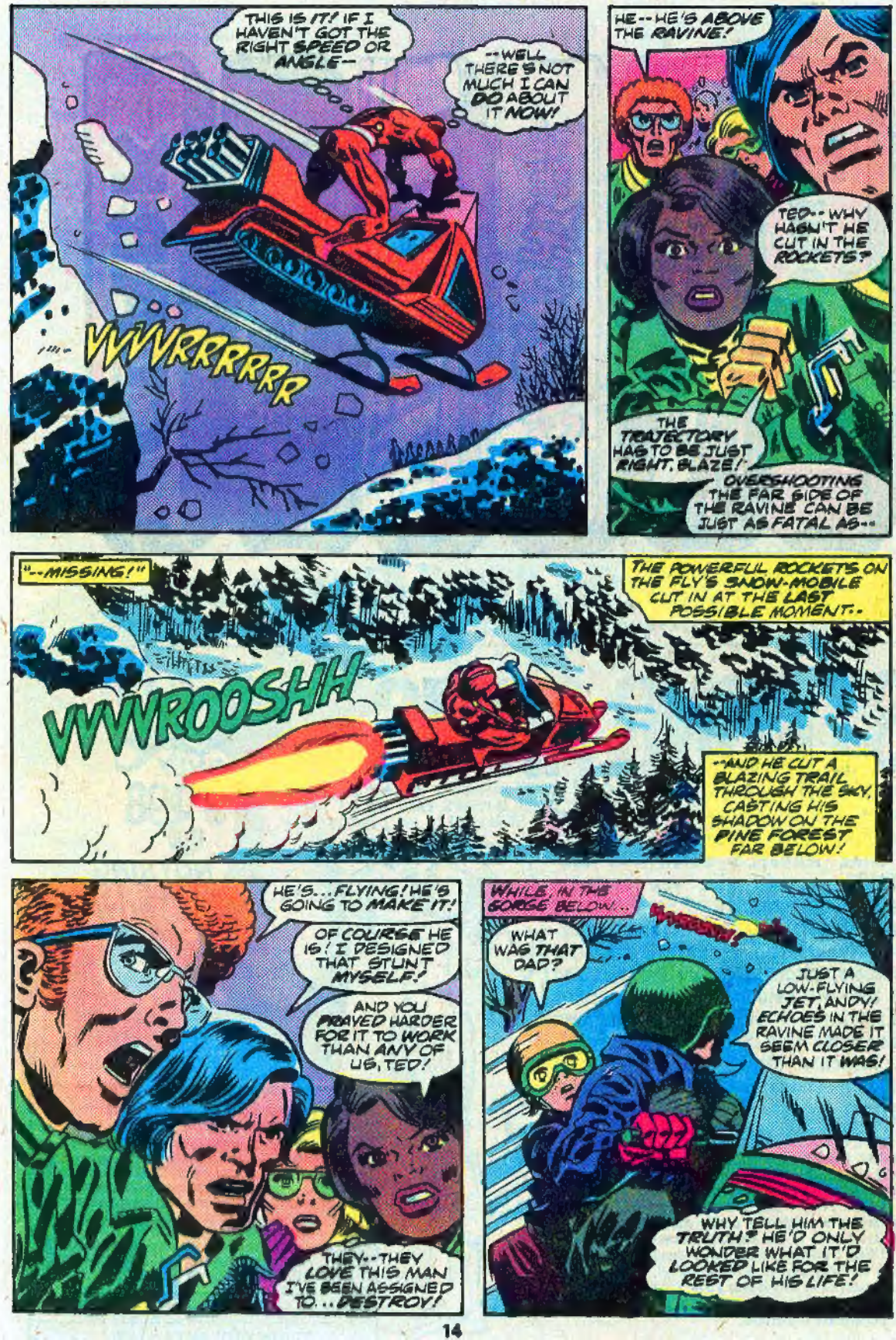
AND, IN MY SHED...
WOW! LISTEN TO THAT MOTOR! I'VE WORKED ON SPECIALS, BUT... AWW! A BIG EVENT-- AND ANDY CAN'T EVEN SEE IT!
HOW'D YOU LIKE TO TAKE A RIDE WITH ME, SON?
GREAT! BUT--CAN FROST COME, TOO?

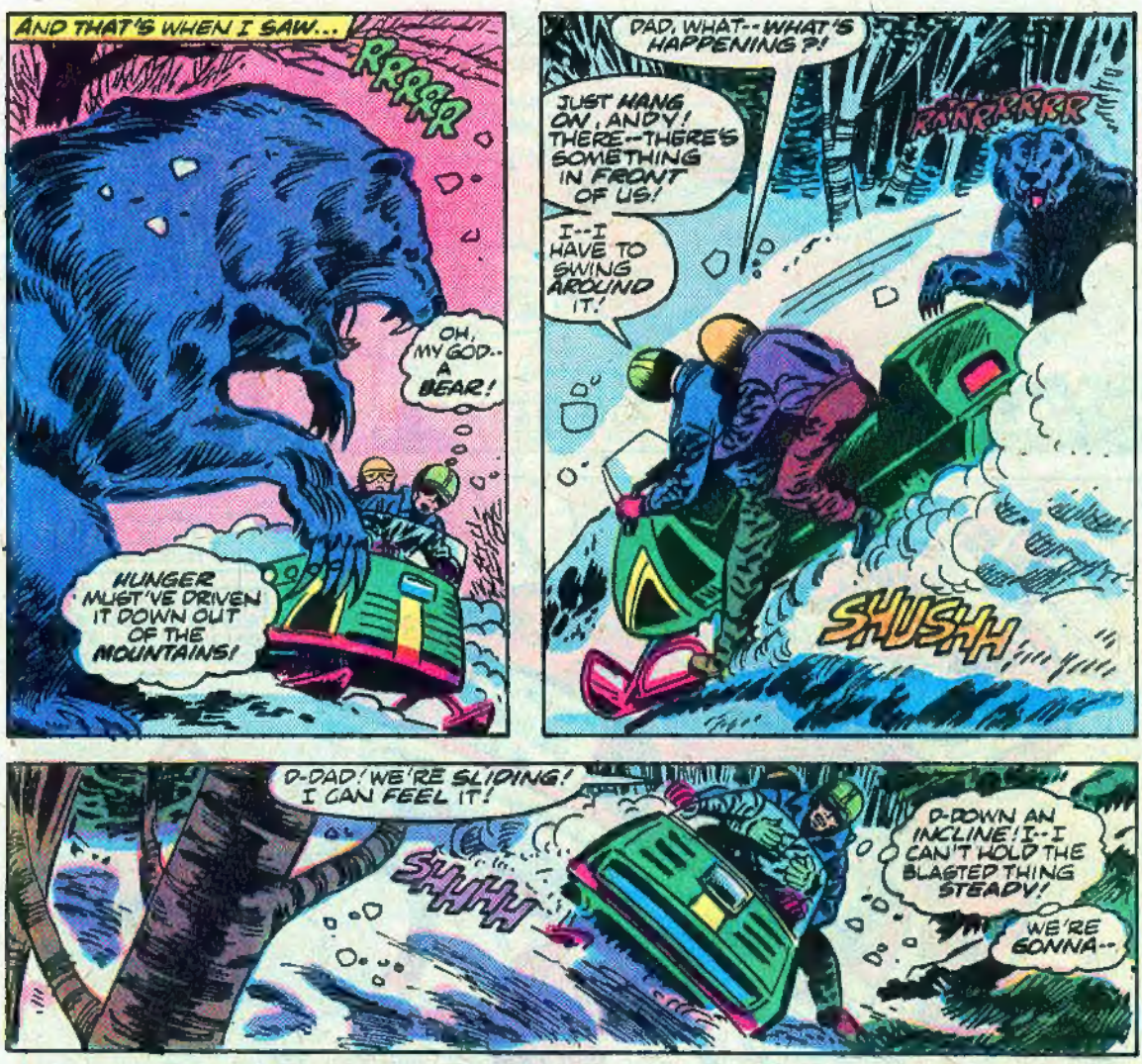
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

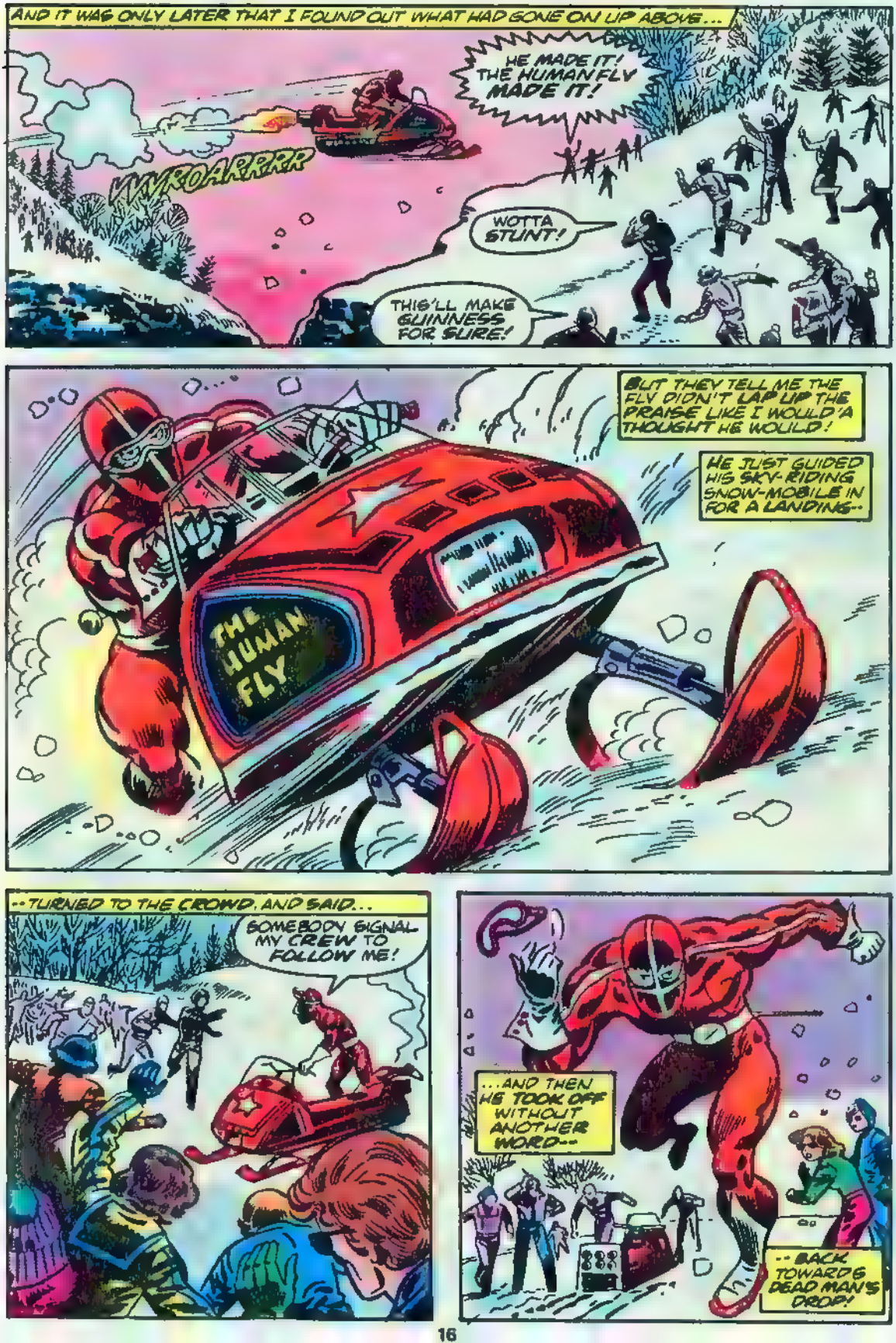
IN MY MIND'S EYE, I COULD SEE WHAT WAS GOIN' ON BACK AT THE LODGE--
READY... ON YOUR MARK...
VVVVRRRRRRRR--
EVEN IF ANDY COULDN'T!
HANG ON, SON! WE'LL TAKE THE NORTH SLOPE!
RRRRRRRRR
AND, AS WE PULLED OUT, I HEARD THE CROWD GO WILD. HEARD THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES SCREAM--
...GO!
--AS THE HUMAN FLY GUIDED HIS ROCKET-POWERED SNOW-MOBILE DOWN A 60-DEGREE INCLINE--
--TOWARDS DEAD MAN'S DROP--
VVROAARR
--A KILLER RAVINE LESS THAN A MILE BELOW!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT CHEERING BEHIND US, DAD?
NOTHING, ANDY-- JUST MORE OF THE FESTIVAL!
YEAH--AND I COULD TASTE THE GLORY, THE PRAISE, AND THE MONEY THEY'D HEAP ON THE HUMAN FLY--BUT NEVER ON A LOUSY GREASE-MONKEY!

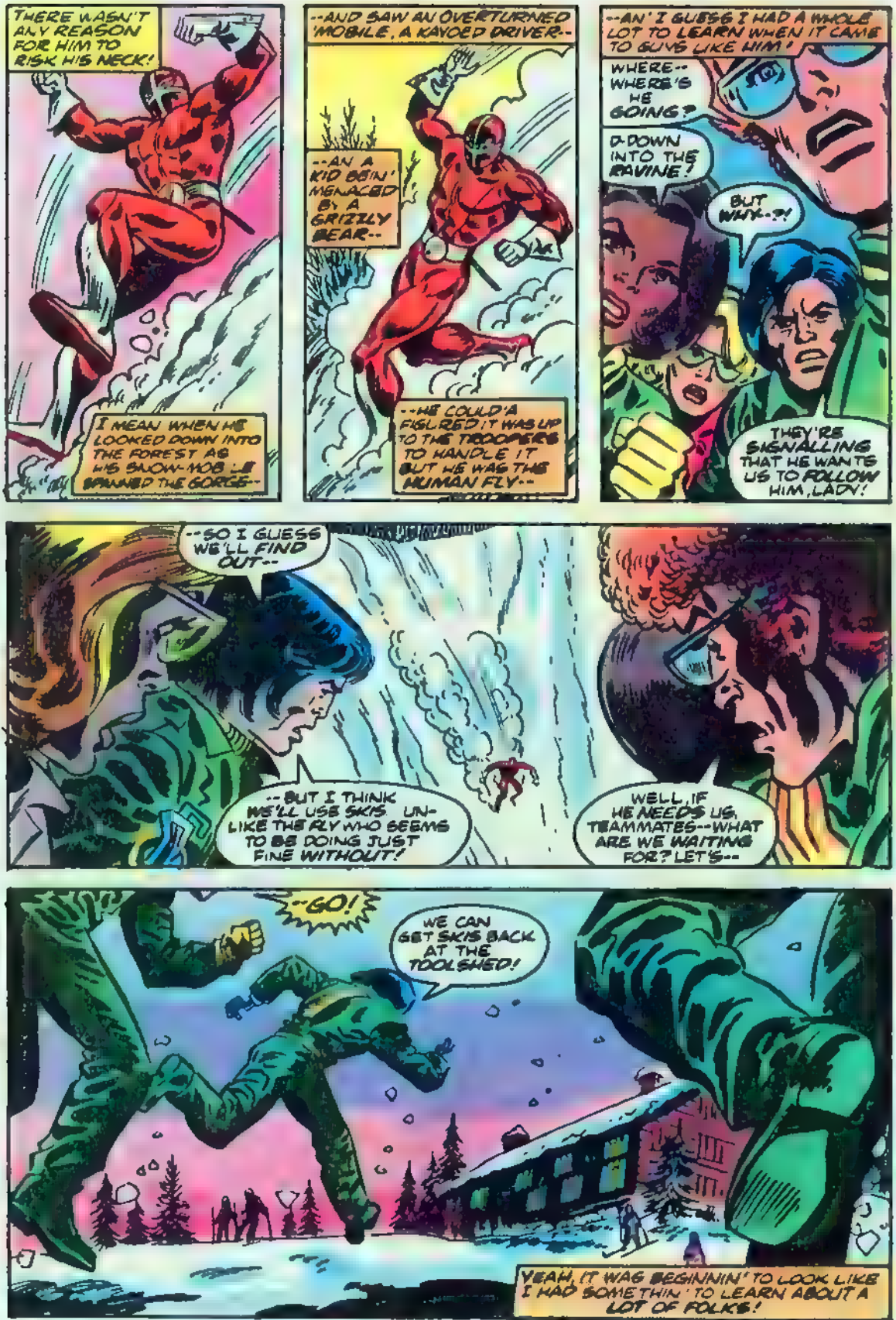

HAVE TO KEEP THE SNOW-MOBILE STEADY! ANY VARIATION TO THE RIGHT OR THE LEFT--
--AND I'LL LOSE THE SPEED I'LL NEED TO MAKE THE JUMP!
YOU OKAY, ANDY? YOU'RE AWFUL QUIET BACK THERE!
JUST THINKIN' ABOUT FROST, DAD--
--WONDERIN' WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE!
ALMOST THERE!
FLY-- YOU'VE BEEN LUCKY UP TIL NOW--
YOU--YOU WILL, ANDY... SOMEDAY! THAT'S WHY I BEEN WORKIN' SO HARD!
THERE'S A DOC I HEARD ABOUT IN NEW YORK! HE CURES PEOPLE WHO USED TO BE ABLE TO SEE!
YOU MEAN LIKE I COULD BEFORE THE ACCIDENT, DAD?
--BUT THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHEN YOU'D BETTER SUPPLEMENT THAT LUCK--
--WITH A LITTLE PRAYER!
YES, SON-- LIKE YOU!
WHAT A LOUSY WORLD! PEOPLE SHELL OUT BIG BUCKS FOR A ROCKET-POWERED PLAYTHING--FOR A FEW CHEAP THRILLS--
--WHEN THAT DOUGH COULD HELP MY KID TO SEE!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE


THIS IS IT! IF I HAVEN'T GOT THE RIGHT SPEED OR ANGLE--
--WELL THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO ABOUT IT NOW!
VVVRRRRRR
HE--HE'S ABOVE THE RAVINE!
TED--WHY HASN'T HE CUT IN THE ROCKETS?
THE TRAJECTORY HAS TO BE JUST RIGHT, BLAZE!
OVERSHOOTING THE FAR SIDE OF THE RAVINE CAN BE JUST AS FATAL AS--
"--MISSING!"
VVVROOSHH
THE POWERFUL ROCKETS ON THE FLY'S SNOW-MOBILE CUT IN AT THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT..
--AND HE CUT A BLAZING TRAIL THROUGH THE SKY, CASTING HIS SHADOW ON THE PINE FOREST FAR BELOW!
HE'S...FLYING! HE'S GOING TO MAKE IT!
OF COURSE HE IS! I DESIGNED THAT STUNT MYSELF!
AND YOU PRAYED HARDER FOR IT TO WORK THAN ANY OF US, TED!
THEY--THEY LOVE THIS MAN I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO...DESTROY!
WHILE, IN THE GORGE BELOW...
WHAT WAS THAT DAD?
WHEEEEW!
JUST A LOW-FLYING JET, ANDY! ECHOES IN THE RAVINE MADE IT SEEM CLOSER THAN IT WAS!
WHY TELL HIM THE TRUTH? HE'D ONLY WONDER WHAT IT'D LOOKED LIKE FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE!


AND THAT'S WHEN I SAW...
RRRRR
OH, MY GOD.. A BEAR!
HUNGER MUST'VE DRIVEN IT DOWN OUT OF THE MOUNTAINS!
DAD, WHAT--WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
JUST HANG ON, ANDY! THERE--THERE'S SOMETHING IN FRONT OF US!
I--I HAVE TO SWING AROUND IT!
RRRRRRRR
SHUSHH
D-DAD! WE'RE SLIDING! I CAN FEEL IT!
SHUHH
D-DOWN AN INCLINE! I--I CAN'T HOLD THE BLASTED THING STEADY!
WE'RE GONNA--
"--SPILL!"
D-DAD!
KRAK
UNHH!
DAD, WHERE ARE YOU? P-PLEASE, DAD-- ANSWER ME!
I WANTED TO, ANDY--BELIEVE ME! BUT I WAS IN DREAM-LAND--
--AND THAT BEAR WAS GETTING CLOSER!


AND IT WAS ONLY LATER THAT I FOUND OUT WHAT HAD GONE ON UP ABOVE...
HE MADE IT! THE HUMAN FLY MADE IT!
VVVROARRRR
WOTTA STUNT!
THIS'LL MAKE GUINNESS FOR SURE!
BUT THEY TELL ME THE FLY DIDN'T LAP UP THE PRAISE LIKE I WOULD'A THOUGHT HE WOULD!
HE JUST GUIDED HIS SKY-RIDING SNOW-MOBILE IN FOR A LANDING--
THE HUMAN FLY
--TURNED TO THE CROWD, AND SAID...
SOMEBODY SIGNAL MY CREW TO FOLLOW ME!
...AND THEN HE TOOK OFF WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD--
-- BACK TOWARD'S DEAD MAN'S DROP!


THERE WASN'T ANY REASON FOR HIM TO RISK HIS NECK!
I MEAN WHEN HE LOOKED DOWN INTO THE FOREST AS HIS SNOW-MOBILE SPANNED THE GORGE--
--AND SAW AN OVERTURNED 'MOBILE, A KAYOED DRIVER--
--AN A KID BEIN' MENACED BY A GRIZZLY BEAR--
--HE COULD'A FIGURED IT WAS UP TO THE TROOPERS TO HANDLE IT BUT HE WAS THE HUMAN FLY--
--AN' I GUESS I HAD A WHOLE LOT TO LEARN WHEN IT CAME TO GUYS LIKE HIM!
WHERE--WHERE'S HE GOING?
D-DOWN INTO THE RAVINE!
BUT WHY--?!
THEY'RE SIGNALLING THAT HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM, LADY!
--SO I GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT--
--BUT I THINK WE'LL USE SKIS UNLIKE THE FLY WHO SEEMS TO BE DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT!
WELL, IF HE NEEDS US, TEAMMATES--WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S--
--GO!
WE CAN GET SKIS BACK AT THE TOOLSHED!
YEAH, IT WAS BEGINNIN' TO LOOK LIKE I HAD SOMETHIN' TO LEARN ABOUT A LOT OF FOLKS!

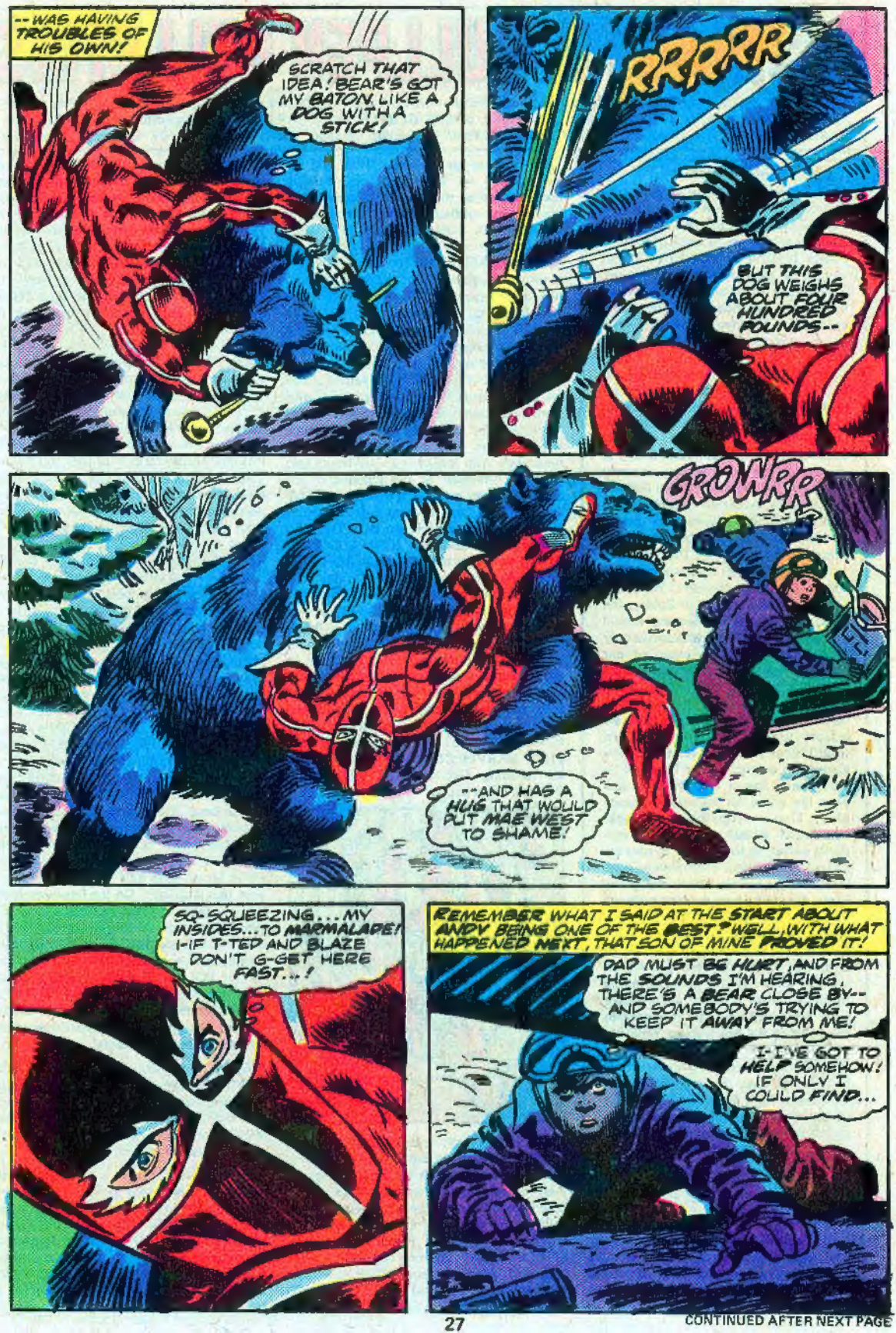
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

THEY WERE SOMEWHERE NEAR HERE! I CAN'T BE FAR OFF!
BUT I DON'T SEE THEM!
SUDDENLY...
UHH! STONE HIDDEN IN THE SNOW DIDN'T SPOT IT IN TIME! I'M GOING TO--
--HAVE TO ROLL WITH IT SINCE A FALL AT THE SPEED I WAS GOING WOULDN'T BE TOO PLEASANT!
BUT MAYBE I CAN USE MY MOMENTUM TO TAKE TO THE TREES!
THIS LOW BRANCH IS JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!
YEAH, AN' IT ALSO GAVE HIM THE HEIGHT HE NEEDED TO SPOT...
WHY DOESN'T THE BOY RUN? WAIT! THE WAY HE'S GROPING ABOUT--!
OF COURSE-- HE'S BLIND!
HE DOESN'T KNOW THE DANGER HE'S IN!
DAD, I-- I'M GETTING SCARED!

WHILE, UP TOP AT MY TOOL SHED...
BLAZE--LOOK! A SNOW-MOBILE TRAIL LEADING DOWN INTO THE RAVINE!
WHINE
TED--THAT DOG! I SAW IT LEADING A BLIND BOY DURING THE FESTIVAL!
HOLY--! MAYBE THE KID'S LOST!
NO WONDER THE FLY TOOK OFF! BUT I'VE FOUND SOMETHING THAT'LL GET US DOWN THERE FASTER THAN SKIS!
GOOD! ARNIE'S GONE TO CALL THE STATE POLICE!
YIP YIP
ALL RIGHT, BOY--LET ME GET YOUR LEASH OFF!
NOW GO, FELLA! LEAD US TO YOUR MASTER!
HE'S OFF, BLAZE!
BRACE YOURSELF, TED--'CAUSE SO ARE WE!
VVVROARRR
HARMONY--THIS HAS GOT TO BE THE MAJOR CONTRADICTION OF YOUR LIFE!
THE FLY IS IN DANGER--YOU DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO HAPPEN TO HIM--YOU MAY EVEN...LIKE HIM--
--BUT YOUR JOB IS AT STAKE UNLESS YOU REVEAL HIS IDENTITY TO THE WORLD!*
OH, HELL! I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
* SEE LAST ISSUE--ARCH.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

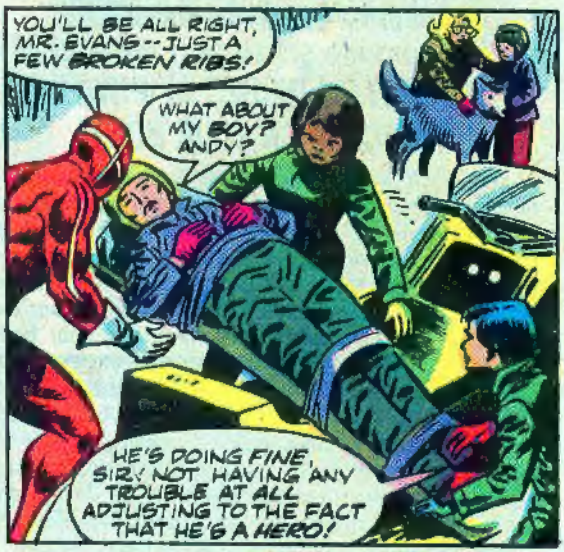
BUT SHE DIDN'T LET THAT STOP HER! SHE WAS TOUGH, THIS LADY NEWSHOUND--
--AND MAYBE--
--YEAH, JUST MAYBE SHE'D FIND OUT A LITTLE SOMETHIN' ABOUT HERSELF--
--WHEN SHE FINALLY DISCOVERED ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT THE HUMAN FLY!
BUT THAT WASN'T MY MAIN CONCERN AT THE MOMENT!
D-DAD, I-- I HEAR SOME-THING...!
GRRR!
C-COMING CLOSER!
BEAR'S ALMOST ON THE BOY!
NO TIME TO COUNT ON TRYING TO DISTRACT IT--
--ONLY CHANCE IS A DIRECT ASSAULT! HAVE TO KEEP IT OCCUPIED WITH ME--
--UNTIL MY CREW GETS HERE TO RESCUE THE BOY!
THE TRICK IS GOING TO BE STAYING ALIVE UNTIL THEN!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING? SOMEBODY-- PLEASE TELL ME!!
SORRY, SON, BUT THE ONLY SOMEBODY AROUND--

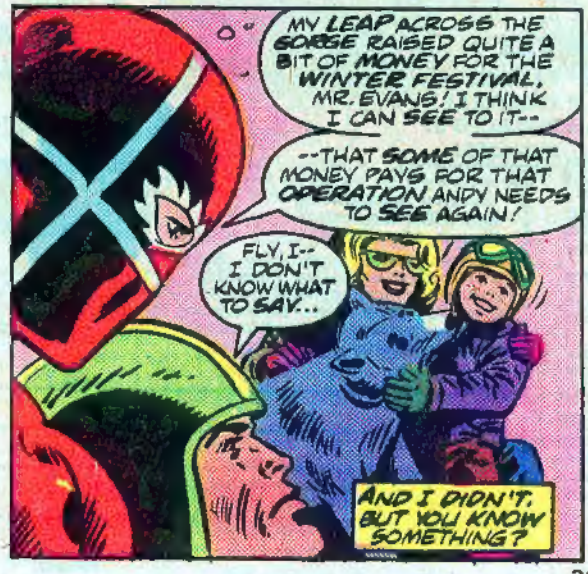

--WAS HAVING TROUBLES OF HIS OWN!
SCRATCH THAT IDEA! BEAR'S GOT MY BATON LIKE A DOG WITH A STICK!
RRRRRR
BUT THIS DOG WEIGHS ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS--
GROWRR
--AND HAS A HUG THAT WOULD PUT MAE WEST TO SHAME!
SQ-SQUEEZING... MY INSIDES...TO MARMALADE! I-IF T-TED AND BLAZE DON'T G-GET HERE FAST...!
REMEMBER WHAT I SAID AT THE START ABOUT ANDY BEING ONE OF THE BEST? WELL, WITH WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, THAT SON OF MINE PROVED IT!
DAD MUST BE HURT, AND FROM THE SOUNDS I'M HEARING, THERE'S A BEAR CLOSE BY-- AND SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO KEEP IT AWAY FROM ME!
I-I'VE GOT TO HELP SOMEHOW! IF ONLY I COULD FIND...

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

HE DID!
IT HAD FALLEN BENEATH THE 'MOBILE IN THE SPILL!
BUT WHAT WAS A BLIND BOY GONNA BE ABLE TO DO WITH A DISASTER FLARE?
BY THE TIME ANYBODY SAW IT, THEY'D ALL BE DEAD, ANYHOW!
BUT CALLIN' FOR HELP AIN'T EXACTLY WHAT ANDY HAD IN MIND!
G-GO BACK, SUN--RUN FOR THE FOREST!
NO! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE --BUT YOU TRIED TO HELP ME! I--I WON'T LEAVE YOU!
AN' THEN, JUST LIKE IN THOSE OLD LASSIE T.V. SHOWS...
SNARK SNARK
YIPE
FROST!
DOG! MUST BE THE BOY'S! THANK GOD--THE BEAR'S LET GO!
YIPE YIPE
GROWRRR
GOOD DOG, FROST! I HEAR YOU!
PTOOM
NOW I KNOW WHERE TO AIM THE FLARE!

SON, YOU AND FROST NOT ONLY SAVED YOURSELVES-- BUT YOUR DAD AND I, AS WELL!
BUT... WHO ARE YOU?
WELL, THEY CALL ME... THE HUMAN FLY!
ANDY WAS, WELL, SPEECHLESS! AND LATER...


YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MR. EVANS--JUST A FEW BROKEN RIBS!
WHAT ABOUT MY BOY? ANDY?
HE'S DOING FINE, SIR! NOT HAVING ANY TROUBLE AT ALL ADJUSTING TO THE FACT THAT HE'S A HERO!


MY LEAP ACROSS THE GORGE RAISED QUITE A BIT OF MONEY FOR THE WINTER FESTIVAL, MR. EVANS! I THINK I CAN SEE TO IT--
--THAT SOME OF THAT MONEY PAYS FOR THAT OPERATION ANDY NEEDS TO SEE AGAIN!
FLY, I-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
AND I DIDN'T, BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING?

NEXT ISSUE: MAYHEM IN MANHATTEN WHEN

THE TIGER MEETS THE FLY!

FLY PAPERS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Fly People,

The HUMAN FLY #4 was great! But I have a suggestion. Let's see the Fly more on his own. I don't like it when he teams up with a super-hero. By the way, those giant copper Condors were *weird!* I hope the Fly *never* gets cancelled. Keep up the good work.

Charlie Kile
Rt 1, Box 64
Thornville, OH 43076

Dear Marvel,

Excuse the small print, but I must disguise my handwriting (I'll explain later). I'm writing to you about the HUMAN FLY. When I read your claim that he's "The Wildest Super-Hero Ever—Because He's Real!", I said, "Holy Heroes!" Now for my explanation—the reason I must disguise my usual script: I, too, crusade in costume! Can you imagine my chagrin? There I was, thinking *I* was the only one *nuts* enough to run around at night clad only in tie-dyed long underwear, doing good deeds and bringing hope to the oppressed, and who should come along but. . .the Fly? Don't get me wrong, there's room for all of us in this biz, and I think the Fly's doing some outtasight —I mean, really wonderful things, performing stunts to raise money for charities, etc. (Keep it up, Fly!) And I am far from what he is, never having stood on a jet or wrestled a shark, though I am in practice.

Me, I'm just a hometown hero, busting up robberies here and there. So, fraternal greetings from one hero to another. Hi, Fly!

Rescue Boy

Unfortunately, we here at the Bullpen were unable to glean a shred of evidence as to the true identity of the mysterious-hometown super-hero, Rescue Boy. There being no return address on his letter, and none of the usual clues one would ordinarily look for were one endeavoring to pinpoint a geographical location (i.e., mud stains, grains of sand, melted ice cream) we can shed no light on the whereabouts of this individual. But, we do not *question* his veracity! Au contraire (which means, on the contrary) if Rescue Boy says he is who he is, we accept his statement as truth. For there *is* room in this world for many heroes like the HUMAN FLY. . .and, indeed, that is *precisely* the message the Fly himself wishes to convey! So the Fly *returns* your "hi", guy. *Ahoy, Rescue Boy!*

Dear Marvel,

The HUMAN FLY? What a great idea! I see him as a warm, fatherly man who is so peaceful and sensitive that he even cares for his own attacker. Why not? He has known pain, grief and fear in the worst of ways and even looked death in the face. He wouldn't want to wish any of *that* on anybody, no matter how bad.

That's why I agree he shouldn't fight super-villains, or even punks. He's not that kind of a guy, and it would certainly be a refreshing change. There must be other ways to be a hero besides beating people up.

Betsy Jacobs
6829 Mithell Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63139

We agree, Betsy, but we intend to try a test on just that subject in HUMAN FLY #'s 8 and 9. The situation is (although we won't give the whole thing away): What happens when the HUMAN FLY *is* menaced by a Marvel villain? Does he fight, a la every other super-hero? Or what?

We're not gonna tell you the answer, and the story, in the works now as Feverish Frank Robbins wraps up the penciling chores, should prove to be intriguing. You *may* even find the outcome more refreshing that the non-villain stories we've been running thus far.

But, as we said, that will be a two-issue test. Bill and Archie both tend towards single-issue, human drama stories. . .what Bill calls the "Playhouse 90" approach. But reader opinion is most welcome at *all* times, so let us know what you think people!

Marvel,

I don't believe a word you say about the HUMAN FLY being real! And *you* made me think so! Check out the first page of each ish: "No similarity between any of the names, characters (blah blah) is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental." Quite a coincidence!

Since you guys are planning special photo-features, etc., on the Fly, why cram all this *plus* comics into a thirty-two page mag? A MARVEL TREASURY EDITION (hint) would be more suitable, no?

Keep up the great work.

Kirk R. Pfeffer
1720 West Lingan Avenue
Santa Ana, CA 92704

The area on the first page you refer to, Kirk, is called the indicia, and you're right. In *this* book, at least, it possibly should read ". . .except that of the HUMAN FLY. . ." We'll take it up with Amiable Arch, but we have a hunch that Jumbo John Verpoorten, the man who would have to finally do the actual work to change it, isn't gonna be too happy. So, if the indicia remains the same for a while, fella, there's your answer.

Dear Bill, Lee and Rod,

With issue #4, the HUMAN FLY continues to be one of the most interesting comics on the stands. What sets the Fly apart from Marvel's other heroes, his *non*-hero status, continues to be emphasized. When the Fly pulls off a death-defying stunt, it retains its thrill and appeal because it's *not* just part of a hero's days work for him. And, although I understand that his comic adventures are fictional, his deeds of derring-do are just like those he does in real life. This book, friends, is inspirational!

Characterization, too, has developed apace. The best scene in HUMAN FLY #4 came when the Fly was forced to kill the panther. Here we are shown a hero with true sensitivity and idealism, whose compassion for the deed he had to do touched the soul. Wonderful.

A word about Lee's art: Perfect. It seemed a bit sketchy to me the first issue, but since then it has become very solid indeed. Solid *and* powerful. Rod's inks enhanced Lee's pencils well.

How can a comic be so great?

PMM Matt Kaufman
303 W. Pennsylvania
Urbana, IL 51801

Talent, hard work and *luck*, Matthew. Seriously, though—we appreciate your kind words and thought we'd take a chance here to explain the perhaps confusing art scene on the HUMAN FLY. The book now has *two* regular artists. What we mean by that is that Frank Robbins *and* Lee Elias are now the book's permanent pencilers. Since most HUMAN FLY stories will be single-issue tales, each artist can work on their respective plots with Bill strenuously seeing to it that there is a line of continuity holding the book together. So, Frank did HF #'s 5, 6, 8 and 9; while Lee is working on HF #'s 7, 10 and 11. This is something new for Marvel, but then, so is the entire concept of a book like the HUMAN FLY.

Let us know how it strikes you, Matt.

Until next month, pilgrims—keep 'em FLYing!